

Belair,  
Nashville vicinity,  
Tennessee.

HABS No. TENN-134

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Tennessee

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
CENTRAL UNIT—ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
J. Frazer Smith, District Officer  
Goodwyn Institute Bldg., Memphis, Tenn.

## BELAIR

North side Lebanon Pike, 5 miles east of Nashville, Tennessee.

Physical Data

Present owner: R. D. Stanford.  
Present occupant and use: Stanford home.

Description (present condition)

Wall construction: Brick - Flemish in front and west side.

Size and form: Generally L-shaped, several additions, kitchen in ell.  
Number stories: Two.

Front porch: Wood (cedar), 2-story portico, fluted Doric, 1-story deck roof. Rear porch: Wooden.

Exterior openings, windows: Double-hung. Chimneys: Brick.

Interior

Floors: Pine and ash, random width. Doors: Interesting mouldings.

Trim: Dog-eared trim with dentillated caps. Mantels: A few old ones.

Stairways: Elliptical, with heavy newel and niches.

Plasterwork: Some interesting decorated ceilings:

Additions and alterations: Many.

Outbuildings: Combination cistern with square latticed summerhouse above.

Historical Data

Year of erection: 1832-36. "Belair was built on a grant of a thousand acres by John Harding, of Belle Meade, for his daughter, Elizabeth, who married Joseph Clay of Kentucky. After the death of Clay the unfinished house was bought by William Nichol, of Virginia, and his wife, Julia Lytle, who added the two wings in 1838, the winding stairway, and rosewood doors with silver fittings."\*

Built for (first owner): Mrs. Joseph Clay. Original intended use: Home.

Notable events and occupants: "Belair was sold after the death of Mr. Nichol to Major E. A. Burr, of New York, and later on was the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Spurr. It is now the residence of R. D. Stanford."\*

\*Reference: History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee, compiled by The Garden Study Club of Nashville, Mrs. John Trotwood Moore, collaborating. Ed. by Roberta Seawell Brandau. (The Parthenon Press, Nashville, 1936.) p.195.

Prepared by

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